

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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United Church in LaGrange, Ga.

1957 SOUTHEAST CONVENTION ISSUE

THE MODERATOR'S REPORT

In making my report there are three or four things I want to do: First, I want to express to each of you my profound appreciation for the honor and privilege of serving as moderator for the past year. You have been a source of inspiration to me, not only in this Great Movement, but in other ways, too.

Second, to the Board of Directors, the Convention staff, and the various committees of the Convention, I wish to say that you people have been wonderful friends and willing and effective workers, of the most unselfish order. To each of you, from the bottom of my heart, I say "thank you".

Third: Under the competent leadership of our new superintendent, and with the Rev. Collie Seymour as moderator, I have full confidence that the work in our Convention, with your support and cooperation, will move forward with ever-increasing effectiveness.

Fourth: The Board of Directors were faced with many difficult problems during the year, but despite some unhalloved criticism, faced those problems with open minds and prayerful hearts, and tried as best they could with the means that were available to render the best possible solutions.

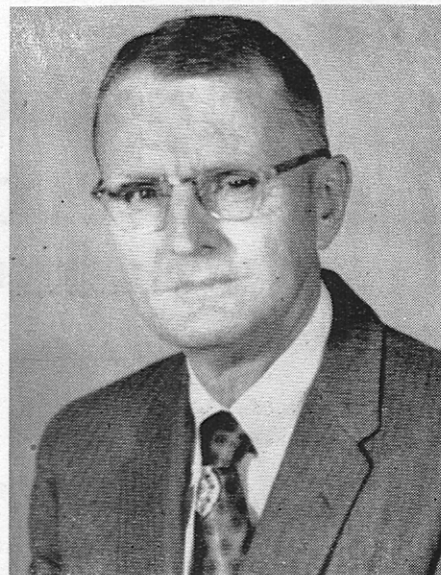
I think no one can perhaps really comprehend the magnitude of the responsibility of the Board of Directors without having served as a member of the Board. I fear some of our people forget that the members of the Board of Directors are people, just like you and me — ministers and lay people who

are elected by you, and who graciously give of their time and money so that the Southeast Convention may render the best Christian service possible. This service will be most effective only when we seek and maintain Christian unity, unity parallel to that Paul declared in his Epistle to the Ephesians 4:1-6 — it is a simple declaration with no arguments, no plea; merely the acknowledgment of an already existing fact. He said, "There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

True Christian unity is a unity of which the Holy Spirit is the author. In the apostolic day each church was autonomous, but spiritually all the churches were one unit. Their life was one! Such unity is the most precious experience of believers and it gives the foundation for fellowship, love, mutual strengthening and growth of the church.

But this spiritual unity is the most difficult to keep. It is easy to exercise authority, to discipline, to rule, to excommunicate those who agree not with us — but it is difficult to preserve love, respect, faith, humility, mutual honor one of another — which is the unity we seek.

Criticism, judgment, division and strife need no cultivation, for it is natural to every man; but the unity we seek needs cultivation and care. Men ought to take care to speak the truth in love, guarding against selfishness,



ODELL YANCEY

pride and narrowness which may easily become a sin against the unity of the church.

Paul declares the means of promoting this unity is three-fold: purity, humility, and love. May we take these to our hearts and let the Spirit of Christ dwell in us richly that He may lead us in the right paths of service.

To this end I pray that our Heavenly Father shall bless you and yours, individually and collectively, giving you the peace and inner joy which can only come to those who seek to know His will and strive to do it constantly.

Respectfully submitted,

Odell Yancey, Moderator

THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Early in February all ministers and church clerks were notified that an Interim Administrative Committee had been appointed by the Board of Directors of the Convention to consist of three members. They are: Dr. Thomas Anderson, chairman; the Rev. Arnold Slater, and Moderator Odell Yancey.

The work of the Administrative Committee was divided as follows: Dr. Anderson attends to such matters in Georgia, except as require consideration by the entire committee; Mr. Slater in Kentucky-Tennessee, and Mr. Yancey in Alabama and Northwest Florida.

Consideration of, and decision on, im-

portant and urgent matters or important administrative problems has been made by the entire Interim Committee when necessary. All communications pertaining to important and urgent matters requiring the consideration of the entire committee should be addressed to its chairman, Dr. Anderson, at 675 Piedmont Avenue N. E., Atlanta 8, Ga.

Except for situations demanding urgent and immediate attention, none of the usual field work of the superintendent has been done during the period the Convention has been under the guidance of the Interim Committee.

The Program of Progress has contin-

ued as planned by the Board of Directors while Mr. Butterfield was here. The pledges from churches, and other funds, have been received, deposited and the records kept as usual. There has been some decrease in the amounts received from the church pledges, and it is hoped that the churches will remember their obligations in order that the program of the Convention may continue without the necessity of curtailing the services and work of the office and staff.

The budgeted appropriations for aid to churches have continued as approved

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OUR DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKERS



DR. FRED HOSKINS

Dr. Fred Hoskins, minister and executive secretary of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, will be the Chaplain at the fifth annual meeting of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches March 30-31 in the United Church of LaGrange, Georgia.

Dr. Hoskins will also address the delegates on Saturday evening and will preach the Convention sermon on Sunday morning.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Stanley U. North, General Secretary of the Division of Church Extension and Evangelism. He will speak during the opening session on Saturday morning, and his subject will be "The Congregational Christian Trilogy: Faith, Freedom and Fellowship."

The Southeast Convention was organized in 1949 and is composed of 117 churches in six states: Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina and northwest Florida. About 250 delegates are expected to attend the two-day session.

Delegates will be called to order by Moderator Odell Yancey of Langdale, Ala., at 10:30 A. M. on Saturday morning; the services of dedication, installation of officers and communion will close the meeting around 2:30 P. M. on

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Stanley U. North of New York City, General Secretary of the Division of Church Extension and Evangelism of the Congregational Christian Churches, will be the keynote speaker at this annual meeting.

As General Secretary of the Division of Church Extension and Evangelism, Dr. North is responsible for the overall administrative care of six departments: namely, The Commission on Evangelism, the Department of Research, the Town and Country Department, the Department of City Work, the Church Building Department and the Church Finance Advisory Service Department.

Since 1942, Dr. North has been Dean of the Western Pastor's School, now being held at La Foret in Colorado Springs, and he also has administrative responsibility for the Pastor's School which meets in Deering, New Hampshire.

Dr. North came to his present post from that of Director of the Department of City Work which position he assumed in 1941. There he was largely responsible for the High Potential Church Extension program of the Division of Church Extension and under his administration 30 new churches

Sunday.

On Saturday the Laymen's Fellowship and the Women's Fellowship will hold separate luncheons and business meetings. Walter Graham, executive secretary of the National Laymen's Fellowship of Congregational Christian Churches, with headquarters in Pembroke, Ky., will speak to the laymen. Mrs. F. P. Thomas, president of the Ohio Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women, will speak to the women. Mrs. Arnold Slater, SEC president, will preside.

The Church Builders Club of the Southeast Convention has planned a dinner and business meeting for Saturday evening, with the presentation of the grant to First Congregational Christian Church of Tifton, Ga. President A. B. Snell of Nashville, Tenn., will preside. The Church Builders Club consists of individual members who pledge \$5.00 for the building of each new church within the Southeast Convention.



DR. STANLEY U. NORTH

were established in areas of exceptional promise and 13 additional churches started to meet the needs of more modest communities.

Shortly after assuming his duties with the Board of Home Missions, World War II began to create for the churches acute problems in terms of military camps and defense industry communities. The War Emergency Work Department was created to administer funds to meet these needs, and Dr. North was made the Director of this department.

Prior to becoming a national secretary of the Board of Home Missions, Dr. North was a pastor in Congregational churches in New Jersey and New York.

A native of New Jersey, Dr. North is a graduate of Rutgers University where he majored in Engineering; Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University, M. A. in Sociology. He holds an honorary D. D. from Elon College.

Women's Speaker

Mrs. F. P. Thomas, now finishing her second two-year term as president of the Ohio Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women, will be the guest speaker for the SEC Women's Fellow-

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COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY AND CHURCHES

In many ways this has been a busy year for this committee. In addition to planning and carrying out the regular Spring and Fall Convocations, the SEC committee has, at the request of local committees, in two instances investigated and reported its findings and recommendations to the local group requesting it. We are happy to report that there are no such ethical problems before the committee at present.

The Spring Convocation was held May 6-9. The Rev. Clyde C. Flannery continued his course in Biblical Theology and the Rev. Robert Yoh taught a course in worship and public reading of Scripture. Miss Carolyn Welch of Southern Union again taught the Associates in Reading Course. The Reverends Fred Mehrtens of the E. & R. Church and Goff Bedford of our C. C. Fellowship conducted a course in the History and Polity of the groups which will form the new United Church. The Rev. Archie Bedford gave a series of

lectures on Ethics. The morning class for ordained men was a study of the Ecumenical theology of Walter M. Horton, led by Guy L. Colbert. The Rev. John Crutcher was preacher for the Convocation.

The Fall Convocation was held November 26-30. The Rev. Raymond Berry taught an Old Testament course and the Rev. Carolyn Welch taught the course in Preaching. Guest speakers conducted the Associates in Reading course. Dr. Wesley A. Hotchkiss, director of the Town and Country Department, was the resource leader. In addition to his formal lectures, he held four discussion periods on practical concepts and techniques. Supt. Butterfield was scheduled to be Convocation Preacher, but much to our regret became ill and several professors at Southern Union filled in.

Your Committee has secured Dr. Roger Shinn of Vanderbilt for the Fall Convocation of 1957 and is looking for-

ward to having him with us.

The plans for the Spring Convocation, to be held May 6-10, should be ready by Convention time at LaGrange. The Rev. Collie Seymour will teach a course in New Testament and the Rev. Carl Landes will teach a course on Stewardship and Missionary Education.

The committee recently held a meeting with the faculty and students of our fellowship who are at Vanderbilt, the students being under the Congregational Christian Foundation. Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer was the speaker.

Representatives of this committee also attended a regional meeting for our chaplains in Atlanta, at the invitation of the Rev. Russell Loesch.

The Committee wishes to thank all of those who have given generously of their time and talents without reward and often even paying their own expenses.

Respectfully submitted
Guy L. Colbert, chairman

COMMITTEE ON SURVEY AND CHURCH AID

To begin with, it is well to remember that this committee is elected at the annual meeting by the Convention delegates and that in addition every association and conference elects a representative to serve on it. No person, no section determines the policy and procedures; the committee approaches its task with a genuine concern for all the churches in the Convention. Some of the important factors entering into the discussions of this committee as they seek to present their requests to the Board of Directors are as follows:

1. What is the actual need?
2. What are the available financial resources in the parish, and then what can be expected from the SEC budget?
3. What efforts have been made on the part of the minister and the parish to meet the standards of the Convention?

As true Stewards of the Kingdom, we know that it is neither kind nor constructive to help those who make no effort to help themselves.

We also keep in mind that 50% of our income is paid by the Board of Home Missions, and in our plan of progress we are committed to a reduction of this aid every year until we are completely

self-supporting.

It should be of interest to you to know that the Convention had a share in 17 situations, the program of financial assistance is divided into three categories:

1. **Mission Points** — churches not likely to attain self-support but offering a necessary Congregational Christian witness.
2. **Church Extension Normal** — churches looking forward to self-support. Ministers serving this type must devote full time to the ministry and not engage in secular employment.
3. **Church Extension High Potential** — these are new projects, or established ones meeting new and rapidly changing conditions.

The Nashville Brookmeade Church is a typical example of this. To be high potential, the project must depend on the Board of Home Missions, since more financial assistance is required.

It is in this category that our Church Builders Club expects to cooperate with the Board of Home Missions and more specifically with the Survey and Church Aid Committee.

This committee can report that Douglas First Church has received assistance both from the Convention and the

Church Builders Club. Tifton First Church has received aid from the Convention and expects aid from the Church Builders Club. Nashville Brookmeade is the next church on the schedule for assistance from the Church Builders.

We are also happy to report that we now have a church in Knoxville, Tenn. It is called First Congregational Church. It should be understood that we are concerned with new situations; if we are to make progress, growth is essential.

Here are some observations we have made. Read them, discuss them — your cooperation is needed here.

1. When a minister sets before his people a well developed program of Stewardship, expresses a concern for, and cooperates with, Our Christian World Mission of the denomination, the church invariably starts working towards self-support. When the minister fails to challenge his people, no progress is registered.

2. It is apparent that some parishes have sought financial assistance so long that only strong lay and pastoral lead-

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REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Nearly two years have passed since I joined the staff of the Southeast Convention. It has meant a lot to me to be associated with such a fine superintendent and with a secretary who is so much more than a secretary. It means so much to have congenial people to work with who are so very much concerned with the welfare of the Southeast Convention and of every individual person and church in it. I am always glad to visit with local churches when I can be of service and help, but most of my work has been at conferences and in planning sessions.

Pilgrim Fellowship

The work with the young people in Pilgrim Fellowship naturally takes much of my time. I attended the Summer Conferences in the different states. We were fortunate in having at our Summer Conferences Douglas Albert, a native of Pakistan; Miss Harriet Summerville, a missionary to Africa; Rev. Lepke, a missionary to Africa; and Jacklyn Blake, who was born in Turkey of missionary parents. Miss Frances Eastman from our national staff conducted our demonstration school at Pomona Camp, which was a tremendous help in training our Student Summer Service workers. I had the rare privilege of going to my first National Pilgrim Fellowship Conference at Doane and of taking with me the five elected delegates from the Southeast Convention. I met with Pfers for committee sessions with the three PF Commissions; Action Commission at Soddy, Tenn.; Fellowship Commission at Thorsby, Ala.; and Faith Commission at Waycross and in Atlanta. These young people planned the booklets which were

used in the PF packets and did an excellent job of them. I met with PF officers and Commission chairmen for two executive planning sessions in Atlanta. By the time you receive this report we expect to have had our third annual meeting of the SEC Pilgrim Fellowship here in Atlanta. I have attended quite a few PF rallies and helped to get the Central Georgia District organized. All but one district are organized for rallies now.

One thing which has been of growing concern to me is our young adult group—the young people who are either at college, working at jobs in cities, or in the armed services. A spontaneous interest has developed at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and they have organized a USF (United Student Fellowship). This is the name given to Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed student fellowships. I understand that one has been organized at Southern Union College. The Christian Education Committee has sent out blanks to ministers and young people to be filled in and returned. We want to know where our C. C. young people are and do all we can to see that their spiritual needs are being met.

Women's Fellowship

Our Women's Fellowships have been a challenge and a wonderful growing group. I have attended the Women's Retreats in the summer and have been inspired by their interest and concern. We have a fine leadership. In a desire to try to face up to the race issue from our own point of view as Christians in the Southeast Convention, we asked questions of two of our C. C. Negro women friends. From this discussion we

worked out a program. To our amazement, we find that it has been included in the program book of our national Women's Fellowship for 1957-58, "For the Living of These Days." By the time you read this I hope to have been in our eight Women's Fellowship Spring Rallies, taking Miss Frances Thompson, our missionary from the Philippines.

I attended our fall association and conference meetings, with the exception of Kentucky-Tennessee; the Midwinter Meeting at Buck Hill Falls, a fall meeting with the Chattanooga Church School leaders; various meetings with the new church at Knoxville; helped with women's groups at Steele, Mt. Lebanon and at Haleyville, Union Grove and also with the young people at Haleyville; attended the two Minister's Convocations at Wadley; participated in planning sessions for our 1957 summer conferences; attended the Avon Park Regional Meeting for the first time; helped in general at Jones Chapel, Woodbury, preached for the Homecoming service at Fredonia; and several other things which I have probably forgotten to enumerate.

I have met with the Christian Education Committee, whose chairman is Mrs. Raymond Berry. We held several Vacation Bible School Workshops last spring.

Our Student Summer Service workers taught 18 Vacation Bible Schools last summer, and 11 other churches reported holding their own schools. I am sure there must be more than that number who did.

It is time to sign off from Atlanta, Station SEC.

—Annie R. Campbell

REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Christian Education Committee of the Southeast Convention has been active this year in many areas of work. One committee meeting was held this year at Southern Union College, November 30 - December 1, 1956. At this meeting the many areas of work were discussed and plans for the present and future made.

At present the committee is helping to organize the college and working young people. USF (United Student Fel-

lowship) groups are being planned and organized in several colleges and universities of the area with the help of young people, especially in places where there is no Congregational Christian Church. Questionnaires have been sent to all ministers and P. F. presidents asking for names of their young people who are in college or working away. These questionnaires are coming in slowly. A report of these findings was presented to the SEC Pilgrim Fellowship

Conference March 15 - 16.

The Pilgrim Fellowship of the SEC is making great progress in organization, programs, rallies, and meetings. Young people are taking the responsibility for their own programs with the help of Miss Campbell and other advisors. Plans were completed for the P. F. Conference in Atlanta, and plans are well under way for the summer

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THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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Survey Committee . . .

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ership will change their thinking and improve their giving.

3. The Survey Committee is not justified, nor is it authorized, to give financial support unless the church or parish has made an earnest effort to develop its own financial resources by an Every Member Canvass.

4. To keep in line with Our Program of Progress there must be a reduction of financial aid of 20% per year given to the churches.

5. We are deeply concerned for churches in our area who are losing strong ministerial leadership — indeed, we see the immediate necessity of recruiting ministers.

6. With the assistance of the Board of Home Missions, the Convention must work out a regional strategy. The growing South needs the thoughtful and mature experience of our national leaders to make known the witness of our fellowship, to establish new churches in our large towns and metropolitan areas, and to present to ministers the opportunities of service we can offer.

7. We recognize the devoted and able leadership of Erston M. Butterfield; we have seen the Convention respond to his spirit and program.

Respectfully submitted,
Arnold Slater, chairman

Greetings From Cleveland

From the "chilly" north comes a warm greeting to all our friends in all the churches of the Southeast Convention.

What a wonderful surprise it was to receive such a generous gift as a farewell present! Your Moderator, Odell Yancey, made a most gracious speech as he made the presentation at the open house held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Askren of Atlanta Central Church.

We wish to thank all of you for the gift and for all your many kindnesses during our four years with you.

If any of you come up Cleveland Way, be sure to come by 88 Hartman Street, Berea, Ohio, where a welcome will always be yours.

Best wishes for a glorious Convention Meeting.

—Erston and Isabel Butterfield

Interim Committee . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

by the Board of Directors.

The Southeast News has been continued but its cost has been a matter of some concern to the Board of Directors. The magazine, including pictures, cuts, mailing, etc., costs about \$2,000 each year. Of this amount, subscriptions (renewals and new subscribers) cover only from \$600 to \$800 per year — the remainder must come from the budget of the Southeast Convention.

During the past six months some 250 subscriptions have expired, without being renewed. We now have 684 subscribers, and we should have more than 1,500, if the magazine is to fulfill the purpose for which it was begun in September of 1953.

With the 117 churches scattered over five states, communications between the Southeast Convention office and the ministers and churches, between the churches themselves, and the 9,143 members of the churches, is most important.

To work together toward a common purpose we must be informed. Some of this "communication" is of course done by direct mail, and the ministers and church clerks on the Convention mail-

CHURCH BUILDERS CLUB

The officers and trustees have attempted to implement the desires of members of the Church Builders Club as expressed at the annual meeting held in LaGrange on Nov. 11, 1956.

1. A promotional program, with the aim of having a CBC representative in each church, thus cutting the cost of promotional materials and giving a closer contact with the members.

2. A definite opening and closing date for each project, paying whatever amount was raised during that period to the church and moving on to the next project.

3. No more than two projects per year.

The drive for Project II, Tifton First Church, was closed March 15 and the award will be presented at the special called meeting held in LaGrange in conjunction with the Southeast Convention meeting.

The drive for Project III, Nashville Brookmeade Church, will begin immediately and will close Oct. 15th. The award will be presented at the annual meeting in October. We will then be in a position to accept applications for a completely new project, with the drive to raise funds for the presentation to begin early in 1958.

The Church Builders Club was not designed and organized for the benefit of just one church, but is a Convention-wide project, underwritten by individuals, supplementing the Convention's program of Church Extension, strengthening the total fellowship and helping to build more churches of Congregational freedom and the Christian way of life. Every one can join this movement as a member, be a representative in his church, and help to build more churches for the glory of God and the betterment of mankind.

—A. B. Snell, President

ing list are aware of how much of this is done each month.

It is the hope of the Interim Administrative Committee, and the SEC staff, that the Program of Progress can be continued so that we, at least "hold our ground" until our new superintendent and leader comes to take up his duties and services to the churches and to begin a new "Program of Progress".

THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING REPORT

During the Southeast Regional Meeting, held Feb. 26 - March 1 in Lake Byrd Lodge, Avon Park, Fla., Keith J. Borders, of Winter Park, Fla., was elected president and the Rev. Arnold Slater of Chattanooga, Tenn., was elected vice-president.

Delegates attending from the Southeast Convention were the Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Berry, the Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Slater, the Rev. Archie B. Bedford, the Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Long, W. R. Green Jr., Mrs. G. F. Logan, Mrs. A. R. Van Cleave, the Rev. Annie R. Campbell, Mrs. Ed. A. Albright, and President Douglas Wasson of Southern Union College.

Highlights of the meeting were the discussions on the coming union, with the General Council Moderator, George Hastings, the Rev. Jesse Dollar and Superintendent Wm. T. Scott leading the discussion; and the seminar on Race Relations, led by Dr. Herman H. Long of Fisk University and the Council for Social Action, and Mr. Frank S. Ketchum, an attorney from Washington, D.



Keith J. Borders (left), new president of the Southeast Regional Meeting, and Rev. Arnold Slater, vice-president



Dr. Hotchkiss, Rev. Slater, Rev. A. Bedford, Rev. Jesse Dollar, and Rev. Robbins Ralph enjoying coffee and popcorn.

C.

Inspirational and informative addresses were given by Dr. Wesley A. Hotchkiss; Mr. Walter A. Graham, national secretary of the Laymen's Fellowship; Dr. Wofford Timmons; and Mr.

George Hastings.

In addition, the Rev. Porter Bower, of the Visual Aids Department, was present with some of the new films produced for use in churches this coming year.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR

The most discouraging part of this report I will give first: we lost 199 members, not including the 177 members of Memphis First Church transferring to the Missouri Conference. The total gain in membership during 1946 was 539, and the total membership lost was 738. We now have a total membership of 9,143.

This certainly bears out the recommendation of the Board of Directors that a special Committee on Evangelism be added to the four standing committees of the Southeast Convention.

At the present time there are seven vacant churches, and three with interim supply ministers: Lanett, Birmingham and LaGrange. Three churches are inactive, Moulton Bethlehem, Meansville Liberty, and Clanton Eastview.

The total giving to Our Christian World Mission increased by \$3,615 and the figure for 1956 is \$25,581.

Home Expenses also showed an increase of \$8,669, with the total \$276,286.

Only 46 young people's groups were reported, with a total membership of

956. We feel sure there were some not reported.

Church School membership was reported as 5,946, a decrease in membership of 620. We hope there were some unreported church school figures, too.

There were 32 churches which did not send back the Year Book Report blank — last year's figures had to be used for them. Kentucky-Tennessee was the only conference 100% on returning the blanks. It was also the only conference which did not show a loss in membership — one more member was gained than those lost.

The average salary for fulltime service has increased from \$3,600 to \$3,873.

The number of active Congregational Christian ministers serving churches in this area is 41, with two pastors of other denominations and 24 licentiates, a total of 68 pastors serving the 117 churches. Of this 117, only 90 churches are being regularly served — the others are vacant, inactive or served by part-time supplies.

One of the main problems facing the

new superintendent and the Board of Directors will be a program of recruitment to obtain ministers for the Southeast Convention during the coming year.

Local churches should consider if it would not be a good idea for them to encourage their young people to enter the ministry, and be ready to help them to obtain the funds for their education.

Scholarships are available at Southern Union College, and later through the Congregational Christian Foundation at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Other areas offer more inducement in salaries and other benefits in the ministry, and the Southeast will have to depend, to a large extent, on young men from this area, educated in the South and desiring to remain here.

To continue the Program of Progress is going to require cooperation, hard work and consecrated effort by all members of the Southeast Convention, in all phases of the program.

—Montez G. Albright, Registrar

EVANGELISM, STEWARDSHIP AND MISSIONARY EDUCATION

The first meeting of this committee under the new chairman, the Rev. M. B. Porter, was held in Atlanta on May 29, 1956.

It was the feeling of Mr. Porter that the committee should be divided into two sub-committees, since the field was so wide. The Rev. John Crutcher was appointed to head the sub-committee on Evangelism, and the need for a real program of Evangelism was stressed. It was generally felt that the total SEC Program was failing to reach into associations and conferences and that this is a great weakness and disadvantage. Unfortunately the members elected by the associations and conferences usually do not attend the meetings of the SEC Committees, although they are members and are always notified of them.

Matters considered at this first meeting were: 1) Time schedule for the Every Church Canvass, 2) Use of national materials and adaptations to fit into national program, and 3) the securing of additional copies of the stewardship film, "A Gift to My Son".

The Every Church Canvass was planned for the last two weeks in September.

On Sept. 4 a training session for the canvass teams was held in Central Church in Atlanta. There were 20 teams, with each team visiting about five churches. A team consisted of a minister, a layman, a woman, and when possible a Pilgrim Fellowship young person. These teams visited the churches, explained the total program, distributed the materials to the local church and showed the stewardship film.

The Every Church Canvass was completed and the result was a 15% increase in pledges to Our Christian World Mission.

At the Board of Directors meeting on Oct. 23, 1956, the Committee reported suggestions which it had made in July to the Survey and Church Aid Committee in the form of the following memorial:

"We, the Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, feel that we cannot prepare, present and adequately administrate a successful and conscientious program of Stewardship in this present year until there has been

a thorough re-appraisal of the policies for dispensing funds for church aid. We shall, although hindered by present circumstances, endeavor to carry on a program in the firm anticipation of this re-appraisal."

The Committee on Survey and Church Aid made a thorough study and reported back to the Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education, which then felt it could approach the churches with its request for increased giving to Our Christian World Mission with the assurance that the money given would be used fairly, soundly and in keeping with the principles of good stewardship.

The Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that a permanent Committee on Evangelism be appointed, or elected at the annual meeting. The board confirmed the Committee's action in appointing a Committee on Evangelism and is bringing before the annual meeting of the Convention a proposal to change the Constitution and By-laws to establish a permanent Committee on Evangelism.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh Lasseter, Acting Chm.

(Mr. Lasseter was asked to assume the chairmanship after Mr. Porter left in September, 1956)

* * *

OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION PLEDGES

Central Alabama Association

E. Tallassee Liberty	\$921.
Mt. Creek Union	45.
Seman Balm of Gilead	36.
Seman Community	40.
Tallassee Mt. Olive	100.
Thorsby United	275.
(Increase: \$219.)	\$1,417

East Alabama Association

Alexander City Hunt	172.
Dadeville Elder	72.
LaFayette Pleasant Grove	120.
LaGrange Hillside (Ga.)	150.
Lanett	1,200.
Lanett Huguley	120.
Langdale	1,500.
Phenix City United	600.
Pisgah	12.
Roanoke First	360.
Roanoke Antioch	(240.)
Roanoke Bethany	(36.)
Roanoke Forest Home	80.
Roanoke Lowell	180.

Roanoke Mt. Zion	(15.)
Roanoke New Hope	(90.)
Roanoke Rock Stand	120.
Shawmut Todd	(72.)
Wadley	420.
Wadley Beulah	(60.)
Wedowee Noon Day	(45.)
West Point Bethel	144.
(Increase: \$496.)	\$5,808.

North Alabama Association

Arley Robertson's Chapel	\$30.
Birmingham Pilgrim	(600.)
Garden City	200.
Hackleburg Fairview	60.
Haleyville Union Grove	60.
Houston Liberty Hill	60.
Steele Mt. Lebanon	24.
Steppville Mt. Grove	120.
Town Creek Liberty	20.
Trinity Caddo	48.
(Increase: \$29.)	\$1,222.

South Alabama-NW Fla. Association

Andalusia Antioch	360.
Andalusia First	120.
Brantley Liberty	48.
Indian Creek-Community	(32.)
Clio New Hope	(108.)
Headland Blackwood	320.
Midland City Christian Hill	30.
Baker, Good Hope	240.
Baker Pyron's Chapel	(60.)
Bonifay New Effort	240.
Crestview Dorcas	220.
(Increase: \$272.)	\$1,778.

Georgia-South Carolina Conference

Ambrose Christian	150.
Atlanta Center	240.
Atlanta Central	3,000.
Barnesville Fredonia	150.
Baxley Friendship	(265.)
Braselton Macedonia	(25.)
Buford Duncan's Creek	60.
Chipley Oak Grove	420.
Columbus First	300.
Columbus United	(60.)
Demorest Federated	400.
Doerun New Light	30.
Douglas First	(90.)
Ft. Valley Society Hill	25.
Gaillard Pleasant Hill	10.
Hampton County Line	60.
LaGrange United	800.
Oxford Sardis	72.
Pearson Union Hill	(225.)
Richland First	60.
The Rock Bethany	(35.)

(Continued on Page 9)



WALTER A. GRAHAM

LAYMAN'S SPEAKER

Walter A. Graham, Executive Secretary of the Congregational Christian Laymen's Fellowship, with headquarters in Pembroke, Ky., is well known throughout the Southeast Convention.

He has given generously of his time in helping with the organization of laymen in this area, participating in meetings as speaker and resource leader on many occasions. Mr. Graham also edits *The Fellowship*, monthly publication of the laymen.

Evangelism, Stewardship . . .

(Continued from Page 8)

Tifton First	(16.)
Tifton Vanceville	135.
Waycross Wms. Chapel	(150.)
Woodbury Jones Chapel	(70.)
Charleston Circular	1,020.
(Increase: \$306)	\$7,868.
Kentucky-Tennessee Conference	
Corbin Pilgrim	180.
Evarts First	500.
Stearns Community	100.
Chattanooga Pilgrim	2,400.
April plus	(600.)
Crossville First	360.
Daisy First	240.
Deer Lodge	60.
Glenmary	60.
Nashville Brookmeade	500.
Pleasant Hill Community	750.
Robbins Barton Chapel	160.
Soddy First	(214.)
(Increase: \$1,319)	\$6,338
TOTAL PLEDGES	\$24,431.
TOTAL INCREASE	2,641.

**Those amounts enclosed in parentheses indicate the church has not sent in a formal pledge, but this is the amount it has been and is paying.)

A Tribute To The Rev. John Dollar

The beloved poet, Edgar A. Guest, has written:

I'd like to think when life is done
That I had filled a needed post,
That here and there I'd paid my fare
With more than idle talk and boast;
That I had taken gifts divine,
The breath of life and manhood fine,
And tried to use them now and then
In service of my fellow men.

How absolutely true this was of the life of Brother Dollar! Surely, if ever a man did, he took the gifts divine, the very breath of life, and used them in the service of his fellow men. Unreservedly, whole-heartedly, and with consummate devotion, he filled a needed post, and shared his Christian "manhood". Not casually . . . not hit-or-miss, not just out of a sense of duty . . . but out of love — love born of faith, and always nourished by a lively hope.

To comfort and to bless — this was John Dollar's service. To bring the lost to God, to teach (not only by word, but by personal example) the way of life and preach — this was his constant concern. And, whatever he did, he did it unto the Father of our Lord, Christ Jesus.

He did not ask that throngs might crowd to hear him, but only that those whose lives he touched might see the

Christ! He wished for no pomp or pageant, but only that, through his simple, homey deeds, the message of God might be proclaimed. He cared not for the sound of praise, or that his name be spread abroad, but only that his message might re-echo God's Word, and that hearts might find the Father.

With smiles he met the friendless; with kind firmness he disciplined the wayward; with strength he inspired the fearful and cowardly; with faith he lifted the doubting; and with love—always with love — for love was his way — he won them all . . . won them away from this world to that better World, and that higher Way. And even when he never so much as uttered a word, nonetheless John Dollar's text was God's love.

And now he has gone to his Father. Now he has obtained his eternal reward. Now he has heard the blessed words of the One he so faithfully served: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." This is, for us, a joyful and a wondrous thing . . . and it is good to think of our Brother and friend, his long labors ended, home at long last with his Father, Who is also our Father.

(As prepared and distributed by the East Alabama Association, of which Mr. Dollar was minister-at-large.)

REPORT OF PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP MEETING

More than 200 delegates attended the third annual Pilgrim Fellowship Conference held March 16 and 17 in Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga. There were about 40 ministers and adult advisors present.

Officers elected for the coming year are as follows: President, V. R. Dobson of Lanett; Vice-president, Frank Little of Pleasant Hill, Tenn.; Corresponding Secretary, Peggy Hammock of Langdale; Recording Secretary, Sandra Hodnett of Chipley; Treasurer, Ben Cooper of Vanceville and Atlanta. Commission chairmen were also elected: Faith, Ann Kampmeir of Chattanooga; Action, Stevetta Green of Headland, Ala.; Fellowship, Pamela Rapp of Atlanta.

All officers and chairmen gave good reports of progress during the past year — rallies held, two new districts organized, participation in Work Day for

Christ, the Pilgrim Fellowship packets planned and mailed.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$62.52, and funds given toward all projects voted at the last annual meeting.

Each of the six organized districts, South Georgia, North Alabama, Central Georgia, Kentucky-Tennessee, South Alabama-N. W. Florida, and Central Alabama, gave excellent reports.

The many workshops were well-attended, with special interest shown in the Evangelical and Reformed Workshop by Dr. Herman Ritter of Birmingham; the Workshop on Beliefs of Jews and Roman Catholics by the Rev. Arnold Slater of Chattanooga; and the Workshop for Leaders of Youth by the Rev. Robert Knowles, national youth leader.

Both Mr. Knowles and Miss Frances E. Thompson, missionary from the Philippines, spoke at the banquet session.

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The above title becomes very significant to a person who is asked to serve as president of our Fellowship, and carries tremendous responsibility. It will carry even more as we take our place of leadership, meeting with other sections of our nation in a national fellowship.

For the SEC president represents you, the women of the Southeast Convention, as I have at the National President's Meeting at the Midwinter Meeting in Buck Hill Falls, Pa.; the Social Action Institute at Framingham, Mass.; the Southern Regional Meeting in Atlanta, Ga., where concerned women of seven states held an inter-racial, inter-faith meeting to study the problems and challenges in our area and how to meet them. I attended rallies and retreats upon request; the Southeast Regional Meeting at Avon Park, Fla.; and all Board of Directors' meetings in Atlanta. Also, when a report is called for from the Women's Fellowship of the Southeast Convention, it is "your president" who speaks. Therefore, it is necessary that you keep her informed on what you are doing in your state.

This year our theme has been "Think on These Things" — think prayerfully, then act. It has been in this spirit that we have worked.

We held a workshop in Atlanta on Feb. 8-9 to study the needs of our Fellowship and try to determine how to function more effectively. This group, acting as an executive committee, was composed of state presidents, district presidents, state officers, our chairmen of the six areas of work and the Rev. Miss Annie R. Campbell.

We felt we needed some additional officers and that we need a Constitution. It was decided that these officers be nominated, and a Constitution be prepared and brought as suggestions to the annual meeting in LaGrange.

It was felt we should have our own treasurer, but that our monies should be sent to the SEC office as we do now and then the money that we pledge for our own Convention use should be returned to our own treasurer by the Convention office. It was felt our dues should be large enough so that a portion might be designated to the convention-wide use, for the incidental expenses of the president, the mailing, to

hold convention — wide workshops, buy needed materials, etc.

Alabama, it was pointed out, is already giving .25 per member for Convention Women's Fellowship expense. Their dues to their state fellowship are .75 per member, with .50 going to the state treasurer for state expenses.

This committee worked long, concentrated hours to plan the spring rallies with Miss Campbell, plan the annual luncheon meeting at LaGrange, study the materials on our six areas of work — Friendly Service, Christian Education, Missionary Education, Social Action, Evangelism and Devotional Life, and Stewardship (including Woman's Gift).

Each chairman was asked to prepare some material on her area of work for the Women's Fellowship packets before the Retreats. Discussion was held on "What makes a good retreat?" It was felt that workshops on our six areas of work would be most helpful, since our chairmen are asking for help in their own areas.

The six areas are new to us. We found at our national meeting that they also are feeling their way into this new type of organization. It makes sense when you study it. It helps us to clarify, or gives us a plan to put our purpose into a "way of working". To cultivate the spirit of Jesus Christ, to help us know Our Christian World Mission.

Unless our local church woman's group is a strong, dedicated group, then our witness stops there. I hope every local group in the Southeast Convention has studied in the program booklet "Think on These Things", "The Measurements for a Women's Fellowship," "Our Aims" and "A New Look at Women's Works." "A New Look" is a clever skit that can be adapted, perhaps by changing names into some that are familiar to your own group.

We want to thank the Rev. Miss Annie Campbell for her valuable leadership to us. This year we lost our beloved superintendent, Erston Butterfield, and his family in the Southeast Convention. It was a great blow, but he laid spiritual foundations that will never be lost to us. He gave four years of dedicated service to his Master in our area. We wish for him and his family God's blessing. We go on to the New Day, which he charged us to do under

the leadership of a new superintendent.

We go with our new theme for 1957-58, "Grant Us Wisdom. Grant Us Courage, for the Living of These Days."

Respectfully submitted,
Pauline Slater, SEC President

* * *

"OUR TOGETHERNESS"

A report of the SEC Women's Fellowship Woman's Gift. If we are to grow together, we need to know together:

Ala.-NW Fla. Women's Fellowship	
Contributed in 1954-55	\$326.47
Contributed in 1955-56	334.23

Number of churches, 70 — \$660.70

We are allowed to keep one-third of Woman's Gift funds for use within the state. The state's share was used for Southern Union College and Southeast News.

Ky. - Tenn. Women's Fellowship	
1954-55	\$293.75
1955-56	356.26

Number of churches, 12 — \$650.01

The state's share was used for our own over-and-above gift to our national Church Building Loan Fund, Southern Union College, Congregational Christian Foundation at Vanderbilt, and the SEC Visual Aid Fund.

Ga. - S. Carolina Women's Fellowship	
1954-55	\$362.48
1955-56	423.48

Number of churches, 35 — \$785.96

The 1954-55 state share was used to send the state president to Buckhill Falls; the 1955-56 share undersigned on records.

SEC Total Woman's Gift: \$2,096.67

These are interesting figures. Let's check them next year and see how we grow. The national 1954-55 biennium Woman's Gift, which we helped to compute, was \$332,586.13, an increase over our preceding two years of \$50,000. This is an over-and-above gift, a plus-gift, to express our concern for work that could not be done otherwise. It aids in church-related colleges, scholarships for young people who are preparing for Christian vocations, student work in colleges, the general budget of

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MRS. F. P. THOMAS

Women's Speaker . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

ship luncheon on March 30.

Mrs. Thomas is a graduate of Defiance College in Ohio, although she was born in Indiana and was a member of the Methodist Church. At Defiance she met Frank Thomas, son and grandson of Christian Church ministers, and they were married.

The Thomases served in a country parish for about three years after Mr. Thomas graduated from Yale Divinity School. They have been located in Greenville, Ohio, for 27 years.

Mrs. Thomas has served as association and state missionary education chairman, as Associate Moderator of the Ohio Conference, and has been a member of the state Board of Trustees of the Ohio Conference for five years. She took the A. M. A. European Tour last summer in the party with Miss Marguerite Davison.

Women's Fellowship . . .

(Continued from Page 10)

our Board of Home Missions, and the American Board and other agencies.

We have just dedicated our Woman's Gift at our rallies. Let us share with each other through the pages of our Southeast News how much we dedicated and what our state projects are this year. Let's remember our church-related college and our C. C. Foundation at Vanderbilt University.

—Pauline Slater

LAYMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The past six months has been a very enlightening experience. Assuming the duties of president after Frank Gordon resigned led to much study of the needs of the Laymen's Fellowship. While some churches had strong, active fellowships, some had only knife-and-fork clubs, and entirely too many churches had no organized Laymen's Fellowship. Ideas and plans were gathered from visits to churches, association and conference meetings, and the State Presidents' meeting at Buck Hill Falls, Pa. If we are to have a strong organization, we will need to adopt a program for the coming year of:

1. Organize a fellowship in every local church not already having an organization.

2. Prepare materials for programs centered around the church life to hold the interest of newly organized fellowships and to strengthen the existing groups.

3. Make financial and promotional plans to raise the money to carry out this program.

4. Establish a means of communication to share ideas and experiences. This can be in the form of a Laymen's paper, or the use of a page in SOUTHEAST NEWS.

5. Organize work departments on Missionary Education, Christian Social Action, Stewardship, Denominational Loyalty, Devotional Life and Evangelism.

This is a very large undertaking. Do we dare attempt it? Christ dared to establish Christianity in the world, thus giving us the more abundant life. Do we dare to do less? Let us call this a program of WE DO DARE. We do dare to use our talents, our time, our money, to further Congregational freedom and the Christian way of life here on earth, not just on Sunday in church but in all things, every day of the week.

—A. B. Snell, President

Education Committee . . .

(Continued from Page 5)

conferences and work camp. Members of this committee are actively supporting and assisting the Pilgrim Fellowship through work with their local groups, district rallies, convention-wide meetings, and summer conferences and work camp.

A new venture of this committee in

the past year was a series of Vacation Church School Workshops. These were held in several of the local churches, each church inviting the surrounding churches to join in the program. It was hoped that such workshops would be of value to all churches: those who direct their own schools, those who plan to do so in the near future, and those whose schools are directed by Student Summer Service workers. Such workshops included discussion, action, and sharing on such topics as: purpose, schedule, worship, curriculum (materials), teaching activities, and sharing program.

Similar workshops are planned for the first part of April, the 5th through the 13th. It is hoped that those who want to participate in such a workshop this year will notify some member of the committee or Miss Campbell. These workshops can be of value to the churches of the Convention only as there is participation by the local churches and when the leaders of the workshop are meeting the needs of the local churches.

The members of the committee will work to the best of their ability in their own Association or Conference. A special presentation of Christian Education is planned for the fall Association meetings. It is hoped that those planning these meetings will plan them with this presentation in mind.

But, like all things, Christian Education must be promoted in the local churches. The committee has made available to all churches upon request a list of Sunday School Goals and also a listing of the functions and organization of a local Christian Education Committee.

Articles have appeared in the Southeast News which should be of value to the churches; the committee plans to continue this form of contact with the churches. However, each church should have a Christian Education Committee which will conscientiously and devotedly study the educational needs of its own church and make plans to meet those needs. Your SEC Committee is ready to assist you in any way possible to meet these needs. We will appreciate your support, your help, and your suggestions as to how we can best serve you in your church.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley N. Berry, Chairman

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING
SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
March 30 and 31, 1957

UNITED CHURCH, La Grange Georgia
Hymn: "The Church's One Foundation"
Theme: "United in Christ"

PROGRAM

Saturday, March 30

- 10:30 A. M. Call to Order by the Moderator, Mr. Odell Yancey
Opening Worship Service by the Chaplain, Dr. Fred Hoskins
- 11:00 A. M. **FIRST BUSINESS SESSION:**
Welcome by host pastor, the Rev. Sam D. Nelson
Welcome by Alvin S. Davis, President Industrial Relations, Callaway Mills
Adoption of program agenda
Keynote address: The Congregational Trilogy: Faith, Freedom, Fellowship by Dr. Stanley U. North
Presentation and adoption of 1956 minutes
Announcement of Committees:
Nominating Committee, H. P. Beaird, chairman
Program Committee, Odell Yancey, chairman
Business Committee
Resolutions Committee
Appointment of Tellers
Seating of Fraternal Delegates and Corresponding Members
Report from the Committee to Nominate a Superintendent, Rev. Arnold Slater
- 12:00 **Fellowship Luncheons:**
Laymen A. B. Snell, presiding; Walter Graham, speaker, Callaway Community Auditorium
Women— Mrs. Arnold Slater, presiding; Mrs. F. P. Thomas, speaker, Hanson's Dining Room
- 2:30 P. M. Worship Service by the Chaplain, Dr. Hoskins

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION:

- The Moderator's Report, Odell Yancey
The Minister of Christian Education's report, Rev. Annie R. Campbell
The Treasurer's Report, W. J. Strickland
Constitutional Revisions
Report from the Interim Administrative Committee, Dr. Thomas Anderson
Report of the Nominating Committee, H. P. Beaird (elections Sunday)
Any New Business
- 5:30 P. M. Recess for dinner: Church Builders Club Meeting, Callaway Auditorium
- 8:30 P. M. Worship Service by the Chaplain
Address: Dr. Fred Hoskins
Fellowship period, refreshments served in Fellowship Hall downstairs

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

- 8:30 A. M. Committee Meetings at the LaGrange United Church
9:00 A. M. Worship Service by the Chaplain

FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

- Committee Reports:
Ministry and Churches, Rev. Guy L. Colbert, chairman
Evangelism, Stewardship & Missionary Education, Rev. Hugh Lasseter
Survey and Church Aid, Rev. Arnold Slater, chairman
Christian Education and Youth Work, Mrs. Raymond Berry
Congregational Christian Foundation, Rev. Arnold Slater
Southern Union College, President Douglas Wasson
Unfinished Business
- 11:00 A. M. Special music by the LaGrange Choir
The Convention Sermon by Dr. Fred Hoskins
- 12:00 Luncheon at the LaGrange Church
- 1:30 P. M. The Services of Dedication and Remembrance
Installation of officers and committees — Dr. North and Dr. Hoskins
Service of Remembrance — Rev. Sam D. Nelson
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper — Dr. North and Dr. Hoskins